

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 30 of page 9 (corresponding to paragraph 0038 of U.S. Publication No. 20020138290 A1) as follows:

[0038] FIG. 2 In the printed application depicts a process 200, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, for generating a purchase order and corresponding delivery order[s]. At step 205, the purchase order is created by the buyer 130 by filling data into the empty fields for the various attributes used to define the purchase order "form" (a more detailed discussion relating to attributes used to define purchase orders is discussed below). Typically, this is accomplished in an OMS system. At step 210, the system 100 imports the data for the purchase order from the OMS system and stores the data in the database 110. Companies today often employ an OMS system to order goods and services. These OMS systems will typically interface with other logistical applications or systems, for example, an accounting application. By inputting the data through an OMS system, the data needed to fill the purchase order data fields may be acquired from the OMS system. The purchase order that is created will typically identify a designated supplier, which allows the designated supplier to eventually view the purchase order. Optionally, the supplier will be informed via an automated e-mail that there are new purchase orders for him to view. At step 212, the designated supplier 140, logs on to the system 100 and based on the supplier's ID, appropriate security filters are retrieved. The retrieved filter[s] generally allows the supplier 140 to view only those purchase orders that designate the supplier 140 as the designated supplier. After reviewing the purchase order at step 214, the supplier 140 may choose to confirm or not to confirm the purchase order at step 216. If the supplier rejects the purchase order, then the buyer must create a new purchase order, designating a new supplier, as indicated by 219. If the supplier decides to confirm, then confirmation of the purchase order may be accomplished in a number of ways. The supplier may also confirm a portion of a purchase order. The buyer then creates a new purchase order as needed to fulfill the remaining order. Confirmation may be made by creating a delivery order for the corresponding purchase order. The delivery order is then stored in the database 110. Once stored, the buyer 130 may then view the delivery order to see if the purchase order has been confirmed. The supplier 140 may also reject the purchase order simply by changing the status of the purchase order to "Rejected." Notice of confirmation or rejection of the purchase order may also be accomplished

through the automatic sending of notice via, for example, email, voicemail, and the like. After the supplier 140 decides to confirm the purchase order, the delivery order must be characterized by defining its attributes at step 217. If the supplier 140 chooses not to confirm the purchase order then the buyer 130 must create a new purchase order manually or edit the existing purchase order as indicated by 219. Although not shown in this flow process 200, a message alerting the buyer 130 that the purchase order has been rejected may be sent to the buyer 130 via, for example, email or other equivalent means when the purchase order has been rejected by the supplier 140. The system may monitor the purchase orders stored in the database 110 and if the system 100 determines that the status of a purchase order has been changed to "rejected," a business logic may be triggered which requires the system 100 to send an alert to the buyer notifying the buyer that the purchase order has been rejected. The system 100 retrieves the original purchase order and uses the data contained in the original purchase order to fill the data fields of a new delivery order at step 220. If the supplier 140 decides to confirm the purchase order then the supplier 140 must choose whether to "quick confirm" the purchase order at step 218. If the supplier 140 decides to quick confirm the purchase order, after the data fields have been filled, with quick confirm, the supplier 140 may refine a small number of attributes on the delivery order by editing it at step 222. If, on the other hand, the supplier 140 chooses not to quick confirm, then the data fields of the delivery order may still be partly or fully filled using imported data from the purchase order but must at least be modified and refined extensively at step 224. Alternatively at step 224, the user may manually fill the delivery order data field. At step 226, the completed delivery order is stored and made accessible to the buyer at step 226. A more detailed discussion regarding specific steps in the above process 200 and the various features of the present invention is described below.